



Program Manager Assembled
Chemical Weapons Alternatives

Pueblo Chemical Destruction Project to Conduct Studies to Reduce Costs

A Partnership for Safe Chemical Weapons Destruction

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News Release

Design work on the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant's processing buildings will cease for approximately nine months while the project team conducts trade studies to examine design alternatives that could reduce project costs. "Processing" refers to those areas of the plant where the weapons' energetics materials and chemical agent will be accessed, removed and neutralized.

For the past several months, the Department of Defense has been evaluating options to reduce costs associated with the plant slated to be built to destroy the U.S. Army Pueblo Chemical Depot's chemical weapons stockpile. Evaluations are focused on optimizing cost and schedule, with safety being the priority, while looking at various ways to build a smaller plant with fewer operating personnel than the facility currently being designed. There will be no changes to the selected destruction technology, neutralization followed by biotreatment.

The approach to designing and building the Pueblo plant includes three stages: 1) site preparation; 2) support facilities, and 3) processing facilities. With all of the required environmental permits issued to begin Stage One construction, the project team expects to award subcontracts and begin Stage One construction shortly. The Stage Two permit application was submitted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on Sept. 27 and the design of Stage Two support facilities will continue to be refined.

A public meeting is scheduled for Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. at the Pueblo Convention Center to provide the public with information about the permit application and answer questions about the project.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact the Program Manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives at 410-436-3398 or the Pueblo Chemical Depot at 719-549-4135. Additional information on the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant and the Bechtel Pueblo Team is available at the Pueblo Chemical Depot Community Outreach Office, 301 N. Main St., Suite 306B, Pueblo, CO 81003, phone 719-546-0400, and on the World Wide Web at www.pmacwa.army.mil.